



Attorney's Docket No. 043904/205179

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

re: Rankin, Sr. Confirmation No.: 9910
Appl No.: 09/892,095 Date of Notice of
Filed: June 26, 2001 Allowance: October 3, 2003
For: METHODS FOR CUTTING ARTICLES CONTAINING AT LEAST A
SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF WOOD

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

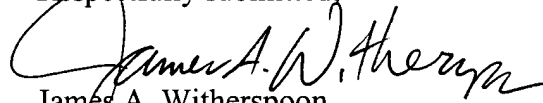
COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

The Applicant agrees with the allowance of the present application.

In an effort to clarify the record: (i) reference is made to the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance, wherein it is indicated that "none of the prior art references teach an innermost TiAlN hard layer applied to a cutting tool by a vacuum procedure followed by a WC friction reducing layer"; (ii) it is respectfully submitted that those of ordinary skill in the art would understand, in view of references cited by Applicant's Information Disclosure Statement filed October 1, 2001 for the present application, that an innermost TiAlN hard layer applied to a cutting tool by a vacuum procedure followed by a WC friction reducing layer is prior art to the present application; and (iii) the Applicant respectfully submits that there are reasons for allowability of present application that are not mentioned in the Examiner's statement of reasons for allowance.

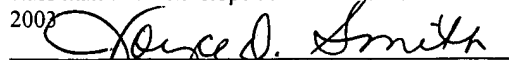
Respectfully submitted,


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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on December 30, 2003.


Joyce D. Smith



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SUBMITTAL OF FORMAL DRAWINGS
37 CFR § 1.85(c)

In response to the requirement for new drawings as set forth in the Notice of Allowability in the above application, there is enclosed herewith one set (2 sheets) of new formal drawings. It is requested that these new drawings be substituted for the originally filed drawings.

Respectfully submitted,

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Joyce D. Smith